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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 10, 23, 27, 29 and 30 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A coin bank comprising:
a coin hopper;
a coin slide positioned below said coin
hopper; and,

5 a coin separating and sorting assembly
located between said coin hopper and said coin slide,
said coin separating and sorting assembly comprising:

10 a separating wheel including at least
one coin receiving aperture and a toroidal flange
extending away from a face of said separating wheel,
and

15 a wheel housing on which said separating
wheel is supported, said wheel housing including a
~~toroidal channel in which said toroidal flange of said~~
~~separating wheel is accommodated~~ plurality of coin
sorting apertures of different sizes.

2. (Currently Amended) The bank of claim 1
wherein said separating wheel further comprises a
toroidal flange ~~comprises~~ having a set of gear teeth.

3. (Original) The bank of claim 2 further
comprising a motor having an output shaft operably
connected to said gear teeth of said toroidal flange

~~for driving the separating wheel.~~

4. (Original) The bank of claim 3 further comprising a gear train positioned between said output shaft and said gear teeth of said toroidal shaft, one gear of said gear train being fastened on said output shaft and another gear of said gear train engaging said gear teeth of said toroidal flange.

5. (Original) The bank of claim 2 wherein said wheel housing toroidal channel includes an opening through which said gear teeth of said toroidal flange can be accessed.

6. (Original) A coin bank comprising:
a coin hopper;
a sorter coin container positioned below said coin hopper; and,
a coin separating and sorting assembly located between said coin hopper and said sorted coin container, said coin separating and sorting assembly comprising:

a separating wheel including at least one coin receiving aperture,
a wheel housing on which said separating wheel is supported, said wheel housing comprising:
a plurality of sorting apertures of different sizes, each aperture being sized to allow

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passage of a coin of a defined maximum diameter therethrough.

7. (Original) The bank of claim 6 wherein said wheel housing apertures are arranged in a size order.

8. (Original) The bank of claim 6 wherein at least one of said sorting apertures has a trailing edge with an angled surface.

9. (Original) The bank of claim 6 wherein said wheel housing further comprises a central portion located radially inwardly from said plurality of sorting apertures, said central portion having a recessed area in an upper surface thereof.

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10. (Currently Amended) A coin bank comprising:
a coin hopper;
a sorted coin container positioned below said coin hopper; and,

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a coin separating and sorting assembly located between said coin hopper and said sorted coin slide container, said coin separating and sorting assembly comprising:

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a separating wheel including at least one coin receiving aperture wherein said at least one coin receiving aperture in said separating wheel includes a curved leading edge having a radius of

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curvature only slightly larger than a diameter of a largest size coin meant to be sorted, and

15 a wheel housing on which said separating wheel is supported, said wheel housing including a plurality of sorting apertures of different sizes, each aperture being sized to allow passage of a coin of a defined maximum diameter therethrough.

11. (Original) The bank of claim 10 wherein said leading edge of each of said plurality of apertures of said separating wheel has a thickness slightly greater than a thickness of a thickest coin meant to be sorted.

12. (Original) The bank of claim 10 wherein each of said plurality of apertures in said separating wheel has a diameter which is smaller than a combined diameter of two of a smallest diameter ones of the coins meant to be sorted so that two of the smallest diameter ones of the coins meant to be sorted cannot fit into one aperture.

13. (Original) The bank of claim 10 wherein said at least one aperture in said separating wheel has a trailing edge with a tapered surface that is smaller in thickness than is a thickness of a thinnest one of the coins meant to be sorted in order to prevent two of the coins from becoming stacked in a single aperture.

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14. (Original) A coin separating and sorting assembly comprising:

a separating wheel including at least one coin receiving aperture;

5 a wheel housing on which said separating wheel is supported, said wheel housing comprising at least one sorting aperture which is sized to allow passage of a coin of a defined maximum diameter therethrough;

10 a coin support surface provided on one of the separating wheel and the wheel housing; and,

a coin rolling surface defined on one of the separating wheel and the wheel housing.

15. (Original) The assembly of claim 14 wherein said separating wheel comprises a set of gear teeth and further comprising a motor having an output shaft operably connected to said gear teeth of said
5 separating wheel for driving said separating wheel.

16. (Original) The assembly of claim 14 wherein said wheel housing comprises a plurality of apertures, arranged in a size order.

17. (Original) The assembly of claim 16 wherein at least one of said apertures has a trailing edge with an angled surface.

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18. (Original) The assembly of claim 14 wherein said wheel housing further comprises a central portion having a recessed area in an upper surface thereof.

19. (Original) A coin separating and sorting assembly comprising:

5 a separating wheel including at least one coin receiving aperture, wherein said at least one of coin receiving aperture in said separating wheel includes a curved leading edge having a radius of curvature only slightly larger than a diameter of a largest sized coin meant to be sorted;

10 a wheel housing on which said separating wheel is supported, said wheel housing comprising at least one sorting aperture which is sized to allow passage of a coin of a defined maximum diameter therethrough;

15 a coin support surface provided on one of the separating wheel and the wheel housing; and,

a coin rolling surface defined on one of the separating wheel and the wheel housing.

20. (Original) The assembly of claim 19 wherein said leading edge of each of said plurality of apertures of said separating wheel has a thickness slightly greater than a thickness of a thickest coin meant to be sorted.

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21. (Original) The assembly of claim 19 wherein
each of said plurality of apertures in said separating
wheel has a diameter which is smaller than a combined
diameter of two of a smallest diameter ones of the
5 coins meant to be sorted so that the two of the
smallest diameter ones of the coins meant to be sorted
cannot fit into a single aperture.

22. (Original) The assembly of claim 19 wherein
each of said plurality of apertures and said separating
wheel has a trailing edge with a tapered surface that
is smaller in thickness than is a thickness of a
5 thinnest coin meant to be sorted in order to prevent
two of the coins from becoming stacked in a single
aperture.

23. (Currently Amended) A coin separating and
sorting assembly comprising:

a separating wheel including at least one
coin receiving aperture;

5 a wheel housing on which said separating
wheel is supported, said wheel housing comprising at
least one sorting aperture;

a coin support surface provided on one of the
separating wheel and the wheel housing; and,

10 a coin rolling surface defined on one of the
separating wheel and the wheel housing, wherein a
trailing edge of the separating wheel at least one coin

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15 receiving aperture is so shaped as to allow an
associated coin held in said at least one coin
5 receiving aperture to contact said coin rolling surface
before the associated coin reaches the at least one
sorting aperture.

24. (Original) The assembly of claim 23 wherein
said trailing edge has a tapered surface that is
smaller in thickness than is a thickness of a thinnest
5 coin meant to be sorted in order to prevent two of the
coins from becoming stacked in a single aperture.

25. (Original) The assembly of claim 24 wherein
said wheel housing comprises a plurality of apertures
arranged in order of increasing size.

26. (Original) The assembly of claim 25 wherein
said plurality of apertures are spaced from each other.

27. (Currently Amended) A coin separating and
sorting assembly comprising:

a separating wheel comprising:

5 at least one coin receiving aperture
located in a wall of said separating wheel,

a surface adapted to contact a driving
element to enable rotation of said separating wheel;

a wheel housing on which said separating
wheel is supported, said wheel housing comprising at

10 least one sorting aperture;

a coin support surface provided on one of the separating wheel and the wheel housing for supporting a portion of an associated coin being moved by said separating wheel in relation to said wheel housing; and

15 a coin rolling surface defined on one of said separating wheel and said wheel housing.

28. (Original) The assembly of claim 27 further comprising a motor operatively connected to said separating wheel surface to enable rotation of said separating wheel when said motor is actuated.

29. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 27 wherein ~~each of said plurality of~~ at least one coin receiving ~~apertures~~ aperture in said separating wheel includes a curved leading edge having a radius of curvature only slightly greater than a diameter of a

5 largest size coin meant to be sorted.

30. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 29 wherein ~~each of said plurality of~~ at least one coin receiving ~~apertures~~ aperture in said separating wheel includes a trailing edge having a larger radius of curvature than said leading edge.

31. (Withdrawn) A coin separating and sorting assembly comprising:

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5 a separating wheel comprising at least one
coin receiving aperture located in said separating
wheel, said at least one coin receiving aperture
comprising a leading edge and a trailing edge, wherein
said leading edge has a radius of curvature which is
greater than is a radius of curvature of said trailing
edge;

10 a wheel housing on which said separating wheel is
supported;

a coin support surface provided on one of the
separating wheel and the wheel housing for supporting a
portion of an associated coin being moved by said
15 separating wheel in relation to said wheel housing; and

a coin rolling surface defined on one of said
separating wheel and said wheel housing.

32. (Withdrawn) A coin separating and sorting
assembly comprising:

5 a separating wheel comprising at least one
coin receiving aperture located in said separating
wheel, said at least one aperture having a leading edge
and a trailing edge, wherein at said leading edge, said
separating wheel has a thickness slightly greater than
a thickness of a thickest associated coin meant to be
sorted and wherein said trailing edge has a tapered
10 surface that is smaller in thickness than is a
thickness of a thinnest one of the associated coins
meant to be sorted;

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a wheel housing on which said separating wheel is supported;

15 a coin support surface provided on one of the separating wheel and the wheel housing for supporting a portion of an associated coin being moved by said separating wheel in relation to said wheel housing; and

20 a coin rolling surface defined on one of said separating wheel and said wheel housing.

33. (Withdrawn) A coin separating and sorting assembly comprising:

5 a separating wheel comprising at least one coin receiving aperture located in a wall of said separating wheel;

10 a wheel housing on which said separating wheel is supported, said wheel housing comprising at least one coin sorting aperture located therein, said wheel housing further comprising a central portion located radially inwardly of said at least one sorting aperture, said central portion having a recessed area in an upper surface thereof, wherein said recessed area is located adjacent said at least one coin sorting aperture of said wheel housing.